SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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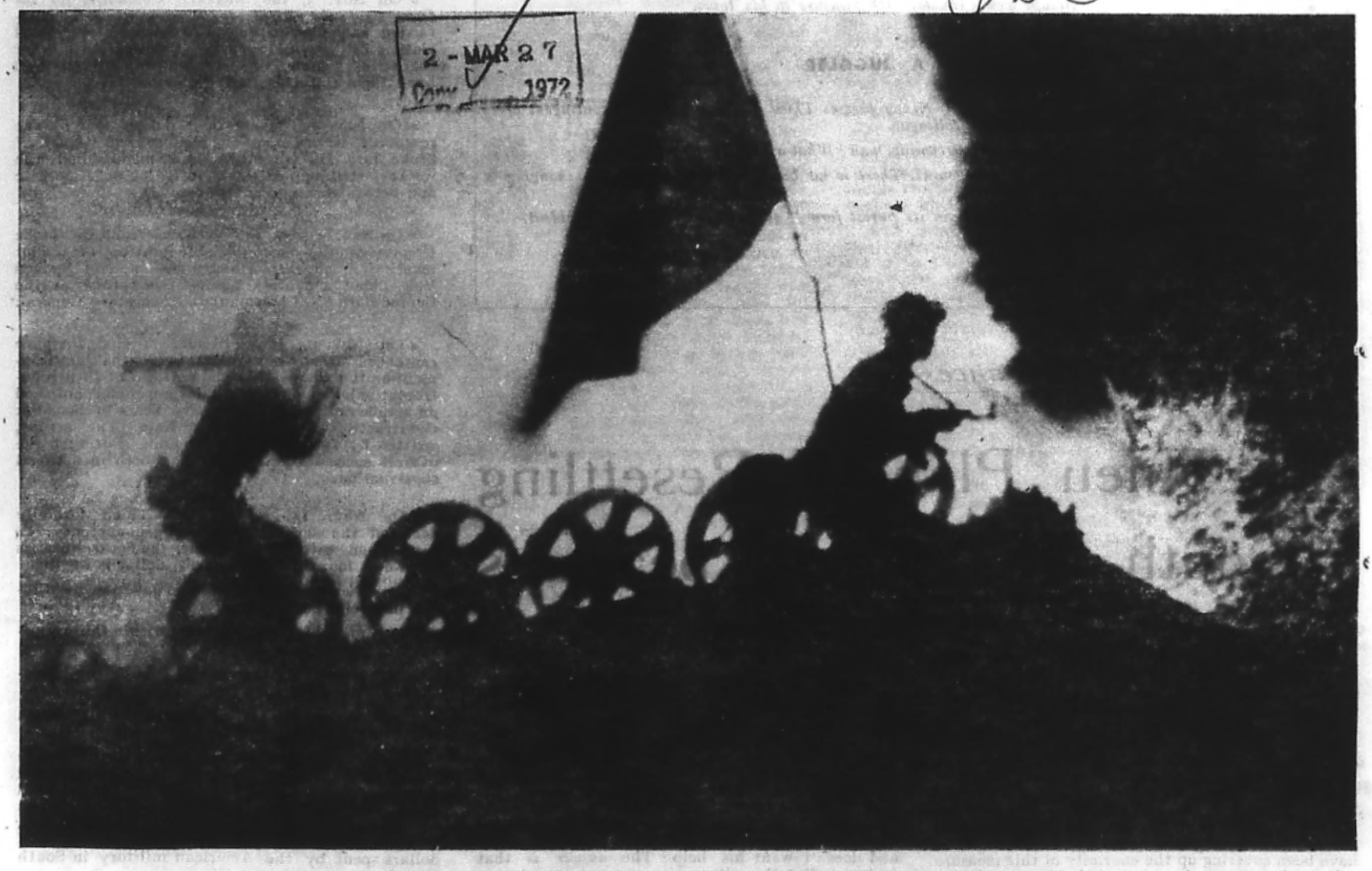


South Viet Nam PLAF in hot pursuit of the enemy after gutting his tanks

editorial

No respite until US aggression is completely defeated

IN his announcement of a fresh troop cutback, Mr Nixon asserted that: he does not renounce the negotiating path and he is going on. He also resorted to various manoeuvres to sell his "negotiation era" and "Nixon time." All this peace ballyhoo, however, could not obscure the fact that he was keeping to the beaten track of "Vietnamization" and to the doctrine bearing his own name. The war is raging with unabated fury in Indochina. In South Viet Nam, "pacification" is being impelled with unheard of ferocity. And all is grist that comes to its mill. Taking advantage of the recent cyclone and under the signboard of relief, the US - Thieu have moved tens of thousands of people to other localities so that their native places will become no man's lands under a US population relocation scheme. A protracted "pacification" campaign has been going on in the UMinh area whereas the Binh Long - Tay Ninh region has been a target to renewed sweeps to strengthen security north of Saigon. The Mekong Delta has been the scene of a fierce "paddy war."

In the occupied cities and areas, since he was again returned by frauds to office, Thieu has been ruthlessly cracking down on opposition parties, hostile religious organizations and popular drives and bleeding the people white with exorbitant taxes and economic exactions.

In the meantime, in Cambodia, the US aggressors and their local quislings have been carrying out Operation "Chenla II" against the liberated areas and in Laos, military actions have flared up in the Plain of Jars and Southern Laos.

Remarkably enough, in the past few months, particularly since Laird's visit to Saigon. B52 activity has experienced a feverish recrudescence on all the three Indochinese battlefields. More aircraft carriers have been deployed off Viet Nam coast. Incessant strikes have been flown by US planes against populated centres in North Viet Nam, localities along the Viet Nam-Lao border and Cambodia's free zone, including the vicinities of Phnom Penh.

Another highlight has been the Nixon administration's all-out attempt to consolidate its "second defensive line" in which it says Thailand is a link. US occupation troops there will not only be maintained but may even be beefed up. US airbases there are being enlarged and the country is likely to become a major military base of the US for the Indochina war after US pull-out. The recent Thanom putsch was but a

(Continued on page 6)

à la Nixon

A WAG

On November 12, to a journalist asking him how his previous electoral pledge (to end the war) can live up to his present policy, President Nixon was quick to retort: "I would suggest that I be judged at the time of the campaign rather than now on that."

This means in other words: "Forget all my talking nonsense at the election race. The US Chief Executive has not to answer for the lies of a candidate!"

It indeed is a masterly use of the tongue.

Aesope would chuckle with pleasure in his tomb.

...AND A JUGGLER

On an SOS from Lon Nol, President Nixon presses Thieu to dispatch a big contingent of Saigon troops to the rescue of his Cambodian colleague.

Sending a sinking man to rescue a drowning man? What a folly! some would say.

Well, it is in fact an idea of real genius. There is no better illustration of quick changing the corpses' colours on the battlefields.

"Cambodia is the Nixon doctrine in its purest form," said the incumbent US President.

Damned Dicky, the Juggler!

DU KICH

American paper denounces

US-Thieu Plan of Resettling South Vietnamese peasants

"TO GET RID OF THE WHOLE MESS"

IT has come to light that the United States government and its South Vietnamese allies are planning a mass deportation within South Viet Nam that appears virtually certain to open an entirely new and bloody chapter in Indochina war. A recent story in the *Times* reveals a project to deport hundreds of thousands of people — and, in the end, perhaps millions — from the five northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam to southern provinces... So far, the American and South Vietnamese government officials concerned have been covering up the enormity of this measure with the customary euphemisms. In the *Times* article, a Vietnamese official says that several "village representatives" from northern provinces will be brought down to the South to look at the land where their villages are to be relocated, as though to suggest that his forced mass deportation would be nothing more than a kind of real-estate deal. In reality, if this brutal project is carried out, it will be nothing less than the first openly totalitarian act in the history of this nation's relations with other nations, and one of the few such acts in any nation's history...

The obliteration of their villages was also covered up with euphemisms — words and phrases such as: "Pacification," "Resettlement," "Rural Development," and "Operation County Fair." At the "County Fair," along with free buffet lunches from portable Army kitchens, piped-in music, showings of cartoons and propaganda movies, and hand-outs of candy to children. There were offered such novel attractions as the torture of the customers and the machine-gunning from helicopters of anyone who didn't want to attend. In cases where there was resistance from a village slated for "resettlement" (and who can doubt that the current project of mass "resettlement" will be met with heavy resistance), the military often simply bombed the village out of existence. There are the true precedents for the new plan, and they afford the best indications of what its execution will bring...

One must remind oneself that five and a half years ago, when the Marines landed in the provinces of South Viet Nam now scheduled for depopulation, the officials of the American government imagined that the job of the American military forces was to help a friendly population repel a foreign enemy. But in actuality, as the Marines soon came to realize, most of the population supported foreign invaders and regarded the Marines themselves as the real invaders.

In the last analysis, what the men were fighting to protect, and are still fighting to protect, was not a country but this hallucination. The truth is that the job that the politicians had assigned the military, the job of protecting the people of South Viet Nam from a foreign enemy, was simply not there to be done. There was no such job. If you send someone to protect a friend from a common enemy, how does that someone proceed when he discovers that the friend isn't a friend after all and doesn't want his help? The *answer is* that *he leaves*. But this alternative was not open to our military. Having been sent to do a job that turned out not to exist, our military men, who were forced, after all, to live and work in the real Viet Nam, and not in the imaginary one in the politicians' heads, began to do something else. They began to make war against the people whom they were supposed to be saving but who didn't want to be saved...

Instead of producing a peaceful, prosperous, democratic society, they have produced massacres, a desolated landscape, and squalid detention camps. For six years, the "social engineers," both in and out of uniform, have been at work with their hot dogs and their napalm, their fertilizers and their crop poisons, trying to build public-relations utopias on the burned villages and the corpses of villagers, and the result has been a swamp of red tape and blood. And now, perhaps themselves dismayed and revolted by the monstrous results of their experiments, the "social engineers" have come up with their "final solution" to the problem of the northern provinces — the deportation project. Like scientists whose experiment has failed, they have decided to get rid of the whole mess, so that they won't have to think about it any more. However, the new "solution" is not really new at all. It is only the old solution writ large...

Get rid of the whole civilian mess, with its crying children and their crying mothers, its old people and its babies, its pigs and its chickens, and its sly but intractable spirit of resistance and defiance, and at last the Army and Air Force will have a clear field of fire for hundreds of miles, and will be able to start fighting the war the way a war should be fought.

Excerpts from The New Yorker, *January* 23, 71

in the cities

• Since early November the quisling administration has planted intelligence agents in Saigon universities and middle schools in a bid to divide the students' ranks and deal with their drive for peace and democratic freedoms.

The Saigon authorities seized all newspapers supporting the peace movement and scoring the prevailing unpopular, undemocratic regime, closed down student-managed inns, and prohibited all students' patriotic literary and artistic activities.

• On Nov. 3, the *Students' Committee for the Defence of the Right to Live* started a fund-raising campaign in Saigon in favour of the flood victims in Central Trung Bo. A delegation left for the stricken areas to visit the people there and hand them the money and relief gathered.

• On Nov. 8, Saigon field police, sent to the rescue of the owners of the battery firm "Eagle," broke into the premises and manhandled the workers striking against lay-offs, for wage increase and better working conditions.

• On Nov. 9, some 150 delegates from 16 Trade Unions of the Saigon Confederation of Labor meeting in an extraordinary session, sent Nguyen Van Thieu a protest against the arrest of the Confederation's Chairman and Secretary General.

• On Nov. 16, the Tribunal of first instance sentenced father Chan Tin to six months' imprisonment on the charge that the review *Doi Dien* (Confrontation)of which he was chief editor had published an article entitled: Twenty-five Years of Socialist Construction in North Viet Nam. The article, written by father Truong Ba Can, dealt with the overall successes scored by the North in national construction.

• On Nov. 15, Nguyen Van Thieu formally declared the devaluation of Saigon currency. In comparison with the US dollar, the *piastres* has as from now four different rates. A dollar is worth:

— 118 *piastres* for students and government officials in foreign countries;

— 275 *piastres* in transactions within the framework of American aid;

— 400 *piastres* in transactions outside the framework of American aid;

— and 410 *piastres* in transactions on the South Viet Nam market.

Commenting upon the devaluation of the *piastre* *UPI* Saigon correspondent said that the financial crisis besetting the Thieu regime had stemmed from the US Senate's decision to cut down economic aid to foreign countries. It is also due, he added, to the rapid reduction of the amount of dollars spent by the American military in South Viet Nam.

• Speaking of Nguyen Van Thieu's Nov. 15 speech, Reverend Thich Thien Hoa, Head of the Buddhist Institute, pointed out that it was "just a sham cake to look at, not to eat. Thieu exhibited it with three other similar cakes he had promised while running the 1967 elections: an end to the war, democracy and social reforms."

• On Nov. 15, at the Saigon Upper House a senator accused Thieu of obdurately maintaining a million-strong army and four million "civil guards" while clamouring for immediate peace. This MP denounced Thieu's "release of prisoners" on his inauguration as a swindle, for his police went on making indiscriminate arrests and political prisoners and students and pupils continued to be brutally treated. The Saigon senator also charged that Thieu's regime "is being turned into a police state."

• Under the impact of the mounting protest of Saigon political and trade-union organizations, on Nov. 16 the Thieu administration released three Catholic priests apprehended five days earlier for their sympathy with battery firm "Eagle" workers' struggle. Giving no reason for the release, Thieu's agents simply pulled the three churchmen out of a car into a Saigon street. The latter stated that they decided to stage a hunger-strike until all workers of the said factory arrested since October 7 were set free.

in the cities

Workers' actions for better life surge up

Workers of the "Eagle" battery firm on strike battling with Thieu police

ALONG with their tumultuous "chase out the US" drive, students, pupils and other strata of the people in South Viet Nam cities, who scored Thieu's persistent effort to keep his position as a US agent, the workers' movement has undergone an upsurge in the past few months.

It has been marked by the strike of car drivers at the Air Viet Nam Company in Saigon, of over 700 workers at the "Eagle" Battery Enterprise in Saigon against dismissal of their mates, persecution of trade-union cadres and for higher pay, the action for pay rise, against the tax on wages of transport workers throughout South Viet Nam, at Nha Trang port, at the "Dragon" Battery Enterprise...

Workers in South Viet Nam have been living on miserable wages which are just enough to buy one third of their minimum needs in food. Besides they have to pay a host of heavy taxes, and to support a family who often comprises also old parents. To keep body and soul together they have no other way than to let their children drop out of school and seek jobs to earn their living and their wives go in for hawking etc... And even so, it is hard for them to make both ends meet.

At the bottom of their plight is the fact that their real wages have been constantly on the decrease, whereas first necessities' prices such as rice, meat, sugar, cloth have been spiralling. They have lost two thirds of their purchasing power, as a rerult of a series of Thieu's measures to grab the people's money, namely the rise of commodities' prices, taxes, fines and wage cuts...

Every month, taxes take a great part of the workers' wages. Of hundreds of taxes instituted by the Thieu clique, the taxes on wages are the most odious.

It is very similar to the former poll tax imposed on the Vietnamese people by the French colonialists.

It was however imposed only on men, whereas Thieu's tax on wages also hits women workers, death benefit and pensions.

In a word, it spares nobody and every day and hour bleeds the South Vietnamese workers white.

With American firms, as the employees are paid by the hour, their only way to meet the rising cost of living and heavy taxes is to put in overtime which ruins their health and youth.

No wonder therefore that the South Viet Nam workers have been waging a vigorous fight. Instead of satisfying the workers' just demands, the Thieu administration has been resorting to police repression, a typical instance of which was the crack-down on the "Eagle" Battery Enterprise workers' actions against wagecuts and arbitrary dismissals. More brazen still, they also illegally arrested Saigon trade-union officials and many priests under the charge of providing the strikers with leadership.

It is obvious that the Thieu clique has no regard for the life of millions of labouring people. Thieu has shown his ruthlessness, challenged the labourers' vital interests and aggravated their misery.

Now more than ever before the South Vietnamese workers have realized that those who have been seeking to reduce their wages are none other than the US-Thieu clique. The money taken from them has not been used to better their living or working conditions but to finance the war with a view to stepping up Nixon's "Vietnamization" whose essence is to prolong US aggression, inflict more sufferings and deaths on the people of various walks of life in South Viet Nam. That is why, together with other sections of the urban people the workers are militating against the US—Thieu clique, against Thieu's so-called "economic measures" and for the reduction of the war budget. Their agitation now in full swing in South Viet Nam will greatly constribute to the South Vietnamese people's struggle and drive the US and its hirelings into an ever weaker and ever more isolated position.

IN THE LIBERATED ZONE

NFL AND PRG ACTIVITIES

• On Nov. 16 the NFL Central Committee and the South Viet Nam Committee for the Defence of World Peace held a grand meeting to mark the week of solidarity with the Cambodian people.

Dr Phung Van Cung, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, Vice-President and Minister of the Interior of the PRG, addressed the gathering. He bared the stubbornness and bellicosity of the Nixon administration which, in defiance of public opinion, kept on refusing to terminate its dirty war in Indochina. He strongly condemned it for extending hostilities to Cambodia, which have turned this one time "peace oasis" into a battlefield. After lauding the successes achieved by the Cambodian people under the leadership of the NUFK and the RGNUC, Dr Phung Van Cung emphasized: "The people of South Viet Nam regard these achievements as a contribution to the liberation of the three Indochinese peoples and of their countries, and to the defence of peace in Southeast Asia and the world. They pledge to strengthen for ever their solidarity with the Cambodian people, in the present fight against the US imperialist aggressors as well as in future peaceful construction."

• On the 25th founding anniversary of the World Students' Union, the South Viet Nam Students' Liberation Union sent a message to the WSU, thanking it and its member organizations for their timely and valuable support and aid to the resistance against American aggression of the people and students of South Viet Nam.

BIG STRIDES AHEAD IN PHARMACEUTICS

Early in November, the Pharmaceutical Department and Eastern Medicine Bureau of the PRG Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and War Wounded held a conference for greater initiative, better technique and scientific research in order to review the successes registered and the experience drawn in the past three years (1969 1971) in the service of counter-pacification work. The conference also laid down the tasks ahead and guidelines to fulfil them satisfactorily.

Attending the conference were Doctor Duong Quynh Hoa, Minister of Health, Social Affairs and War Wounded; Dr Ho Thu, NFL Central Committee member and adviser to the Pharmaceutical Department; Dr Tran Nang, Head of the Pharmaceutical Department and member of the South Viet Nam Committee for Civilians' Health, and a large number of delegates from the medical and pharmaceutical branches as well as from central and local hospitals.

According to the report submitted by the Pharmaceutical Department, in three years of research and production of medicaments of Eastern and Western medicines, the central and regional personnel, defying countless difficulties, made worthy contributions in helping cadres, combatants and the population check the US-Saigon pacification program and expand the liberated zone.

Though research installations and production workshops had to be constantly on the move, the pharmacists managed to produce plenty of therapeutic and prophylactic injections and tablets against malaria, intestine diseases, nervous exhaustion, and many tonics for old-agers, women and children. They successfully devised means and instruments to combat the effects of noxious chemicals sprayed by the Americans. Particular attention was paid to the making of light handy tools of high productivity.

Along with production, research was given a strong fillip. Themes of short and long-range research have been tackled, a number of them successfully.

As regards the tasks lying ahead and the guidelines to be observed, the Pharmaceutical Department stressed: "In research work the pharmaceutical personnel at central and regional levels should link the reality of the battlefield with long-range prospects so as to enrich practical experience and theoretical knowledge of South Viet Nam medicine. They should first and foremost concentrate efforts on pharmaceutical topics and put the results of their research into practice in order to help prevent and cure diseases among cadres, combatants and the population, thereby contributing to push back a step further the enemy pacification program."

A recent directive, issued by the Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and War Wounded, briefed People's Revolutionary Committees at all levels on how to organize relief work for, and give medical attention to, flood victims in Central Trung Bo.

THE 8th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PATRIOTIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED

On the International Day of the Teachers' Charter and the 8th founding anniversary of the SVN Patriotic Teachers' Association (Nov. 20), the PTA sent a message to teachers, students and pupils and their parents all over South Viet Nam.

The message brought into relief the significant successes scored in cultural and educational fields to which teachers, all cadres of the educational branch, PTA members, students and pupils and parents had made a due contribution. It bared the plot of the US and Thieu clique to use culture and education for the implementation of their Vietnamization and asserted that the liberated zone was in a position to build a revolutionary education. The message went on to advise cadres and teachers to rely on the population for the building of schools so as to meet the educational needs of the people and of their sons and daughters. The PTA called on the population to resist the obscurantist education given by the enemy, and on teachers of the Saigon administration in urban and rural areas to rally in a large front against the US-Saigon reactionary culture and education, against backward, unpopular, undemocratic and anti-scientific educational viewpoints and methods, and for a really national, democratic and progressive education.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Guerilla Warfare Vigorously Spreads

THE situation in the four military areas of South Viet Nam was absolutely downgrading or alarmingly precarious, the Saigon authorities' control over villages and hamlets is decreasing and in places disintegrating. That was the gloomy general picture of the US and its hirelings on the South Viet Nam battlefield given by the *New York Times* and *AP* recently. It spelled out the US-puppets' setbacks in face of the guerilla warfare's powerful development in recent months.

Guerilla warfare expands everywhere

In Tri-Thien, the regional army and guerilla were continually active in Dong Ha, Cua Viet areas and around Hue, pinning down many units of Saigon Division One and US Division 101, thus aggravating the enemy critical situation caused by PLAF onslaughts along the Highway 9 defence perimeter. In the last 20 days of August alone, guerillas in Tri-Thien Delta killed over 400 Yanks and Saigon troops, destroyed 25 military vehicles.

In Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper) where the US and satellite troops still maintained a large force, the regional people's armed forces continued to assault the adversary in both the High Plateaux mountain areas and the coastal delta region, constantly encircling and jeopardising their defence perimeters and control in district capitals or towns along communication lines. Within nearly 40 days (from August 25 to October 5), nearly 5,000 adverse troops were put out of action.

In Trung Bo, through a grim effort, the South Vietnamese army and people have unceasingly developed the guerilla movement right in areas bordering on Phan Thiet and Phan Rang province capitals and Dalat city. In August alone, the regional armed forces were responsible for nearly 1,200 adverse casualties.

In Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper), in co-ordinated actions with the PLAF in U Minh jungle area and along Highway 22, the regional army assaulted the enemy coercive forces in almost all provinces, especially along Highway 4, around Bien Hoa province capital and the Gia Dinh northern area. In West Nam Bo alone, over 11,000 "pacification" agents were wiped out in July, August and September.

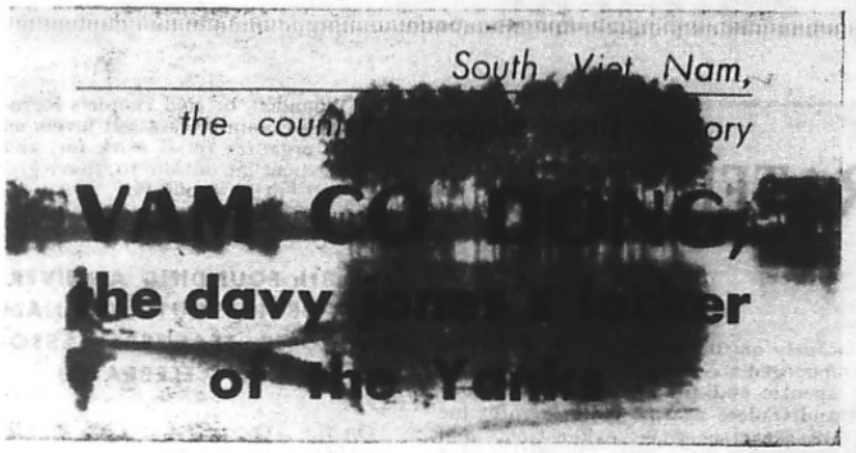
Widespread guerilla warfare has driven the US and its stooges into utter confusion and a defensive position and triggered the worsening of their situation. US Senator McGovern, in his trip to Saigon last September, remarked that at present in South Viet Nam there was not any safe road in night time, and there remained less than 50 per cent of villages and hamlets under Saigon control.

Guerilla stepped up in enemy vital areas

In areas around Saigon, enemy aircraft have been regularly spraying a large quantity of toxic chemicals on vegetation, and their tanks and bulldozers levelling field boundaries, orchards and graves, turning them into no man's lands. They also overran government outposts only a few kilometres from the heart of Saigon and in broad daylight (*AP*, October 26).

Around Da Nang, the second biggest city of South Viet Nam, surrounded by a complex of bases and defended by a very strong fire power from US air, naval and ground forces, guerilla warfare also has continuously grown in the past four months. The enemy stationed in district capitals and towns in this area have come under fire from two to four times. In 100 days ending October 10, the PLAF in Quang Da inflicted 2,710 casualties on adverse coercive forces. American top-ranking officers recognized that the South Viet Nam forces (Saigon — *Ed.*) stationed around that city, especially in its southern part, were unable to ensure security (*AP*, September 8).

With the people's support, the PLAF have also intensified guerilla activities in combination with the people's political actions right inside Saigon, Da Nang and other cities. In Da Nang, in 52 days alone (from August 25 to October 5), the armed self-defence forces clashed with the enemy right in the streets many times, wiping out over 580 wicked police agents, destroying 37 military vehicles, sinking 2 motor-launches. Activities against Yanks, capture of wicked thugs, burning of US cars, explosions of mine in places crowded with GIs and Saigon troops... have constantly occurred in Saigon streets. The US-Thieu clique has had to mobilize a huge army and police force but has not been able to achieve security.



SOUTH Viet Nam is endowed with varying landscapes of seas, mountains, rivers, and immense paddy-fields. Inspired by such beauties of nature, more than one poet has recorded his impressions in immortal verses :

Vam Co Dong ! Vam Co Dong !
In thy quiet and limpid waters
Flakes of clouds reflect themselves in all the four seasons.
From thy banks, coconut-palms swaying in the breeze
Cast their shadows on thy furrowed surface.

The Vam Co Dong river is thus sung by Poet Hoai Vu.

A flying stork mirrors its white wings in the river's scintillating stream. When Summer comes, one can see fish jumping on its surface covered in part by blossoming lotus.

Vam Co Dong owes its beauty not only to Nature, but also to the men peopling the area. In his "The Eastern Lotus" poem, Poet Son Phong praises the Vam Co Dong river girl in the following lines :

She washes her hair in the stream of the Vam Co Dong
And her hair while being combed caresses the vast mirror,
Reluctant to part from her small pink feet
O girl of the land, aren't you a live lotus yourself!

But the unaffected beautiful girls on both banks of Vam Co Dong river could no longer prim in the river's waters. There came the frantic aggressors from the United States with tanks to erase dwelling houses, toxic chemicals to spray on fruit laden orchards, aircraft and artillery to visit death on innocent children. The men and women in the Vam Co Dong river area however were not subdued by the atrocities of the US aggressors and their valets. Boiling with hatred, they rose up and dashed forward. On bare trees, on school-pupils' half-burnt hats, on liberation fighter's packs, on girls' mourning kerchiefs, was inscribed this one and same slogan : « Deep is our hatred, we'll wipe out the Yankee aggressors to the last ! » Villages and hamlets might be bombed and razed to the ground by the enemy, but each bombing raid was followed by scenes of crowding villagers in a send-off party in honour of their dear ones going up the line. Mothers accompanied their sons on the paddy fields freshly churned up by US tanks, reminding them to remain for ever loyal to the Fatherland like Nguyen Trung Truc * who, in sharpening his sword, had pledged never to lay down his arm in front of the French invaders. Fathers took their children across the river and handed them swords inherited from the days of the anti-French Truong Dinh ** resisters and showed them where they could find better weapons on the other bank of the river, where guerilla fighters were operating. Elder sisters in helping their juniors put on their sacks made it a point of telling them the story of Vo Thi Bay ***, the Nam Ky insurrection girl, who hurled this sentence at the quislings' face in the anti-French days : "You land-grabbers and assassins, how can one live in peace when you are there ?"

Group after group, the Vam Co Dong youths have been standing up to preserve every inch of the river's banks and the beauty of its stream. They have made theirs this slogan : "Let's pour out our hatred through our gun muzzles, let's bathe our bayonets in our foe's blood !" "As the US aggressors have bombed my home, killed my father and mother, I shall make them pay for their debt," wrote one youngster in a letter from the front.

In the anti-US resistance years many feats have been achieved by the people and armed forces of the Vam Co Dong river area who firmly hold a gun in one hand and a plough in the other. Boat-hunting teams have been credited with dramatic successes : tens of enemy river craft blasted to pieces or sent to the bottom with thousands of enemy troops on board at Ben Luc, US flotillas disbanded in disorder at Ben Soi and Go Dau ; the "Tropic Lightning" and "Big Red One" Divisions of the US, the Saigon No 25 and No 9 Divisions badly mauled time and again on the river's banks. The Vam Co Dong people can pride themselves on Nguyen Van Bon who offered to serve as support for a machine-gun during a battle. Numerous are "Anti-Yank Valiant Fighters" and "Destroyers of Enemy Boats" who hail from this area. Actuated by a resolve to be always on the offensive in the people's war, the Vam Co Dong fighters have given no respite to the US-Saigon and continually breached their outer defence perimeters.

Vam Co Dong must become a graveyard for the invaders, such is their determination, and their slogan is : "Any incomming enemy man must leave his corpse here, any assailing officer will face degradation if he manages to flee away !"

Like the Bach Dang river, the Vam Co Dong river has witnessed many a historical battle : the victory of Nguyen Hue over the Siamese, the resistance of Truong Dinh against the French. And now it has become the "anti-US bulwark" river of South Viet Nam.

At night, this song is heard, intoned by a river girl ferrying liberation fighters accross the silver stream :

O Vam Co Dong, dear river
Whose blue stream never changes course,
The French aggressors were driven away,
And now we are ousting the Yanks
To restore the limpidity of thy waters !

QUANG NGOC

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* *On December 10, 1861, Nguyen Trung Truc devised a stratagem to sink the French vessel "Esperance" in the Vam Co Dong river.*

** *Truong Dinh was an anti-French resister in the middle of the 19th century who called himself "General pacifier of the French." After his death, his son Truong Quyen continued his work at the head of the guerillas who established their bases north of the Vam Co Dong river. A French rivercraft was sunk by them at Rach Tra.*

*** *Vo Thi Bay was a younger sister of patriot Vo Van Tan. She led a detachment of insurgents in 1940 (during the Nam Ky uprising), occupied an enemy post, captured weapons and set up revolutionary power. Arrested by the Can Giuoc district chief, she turned down his bribes and heaped insults on him.*

Guerillas highly combative even in key "pacification" areas

The US and its quislings have been trying to "pacify" the Mekong Delta provinces, regarded by them as "key" areas. But their "pacification" program here has met with bitter failure at the hands of the guerillas.

In Ca Mau, the army and people have beaten off "pacification" raids of the 3rd stage launched by 18 enemy battalions. In Dam Doi district alone, the guerillas and regional forces wiped out in September nearly 2,000 adverse troops. The US military spokesman in Saigon admitted Vietcong violent counter-attacks on the "pacification" program in U Minh area (*AP*, October 17).

In My Tho and Ben Tre, the regional forces have fought off series of sweeps by 4 Saigon regular regiments and scores of militia companies, and also attacked, beseiged or threatened hundreds of posts. In My Tho in 11 days (from October 10 to 20), the guerillas encircled nearly 40 posts.

Especially, the army and people in Binh Dinh, one of the enemy "key pacification" areas, foiled the protracted "pacification" operation in the districts north of the province by 2 Saigon regular regiments and a number of Pak Jung Hi troops, 14 inter-units and tens of companies of militiamen. As the enemy coercive system there was also battered, their "pacification" has gone from bad to worse, and Binh Dinh was ranged 44th among the 44 provinces in South Viet Nam (*International Herald Tribune*, September 19) in pacification level. The guerillas also helped more than 20,000 people mount a siege of the Go Quanh airport lasting 8 days last August.

Guerillas' higher combat efficency

The combat efficiency of the regional army and guerillas forces has made marked progress.

Adhering to the people's war tactics, the regional army and guerillas in many localities have been able to erase every enemy post in the countryside and beat off every raid. Destruction of a whole company or a whole "pacification" unit in a single battle has now become widespread.

The regional army in many places has also woven a murderous flak against US helicopters, thereby helping the regular forces to put out of action whole enemy units such as in U Minh area and West Tri-Thien.

The regional forces and guerillas have knocked out an important part of the most dangerous US-Saigon coercive and "pacification" forces and at the same time coordinated action with political struggle and agitation work among adverse ranks, talked into surrender many enemy troops and disbanded a series of "popular defence force" units. Firmly relying on the people, and thanks to accurate information and suitable tactical methods, the PLAF in West Nam Bo in July, August and September exacted a toll of 2,300, arrested and reeducated 580 wicked thugs, helping the people rise up to destroy partly or completely 570 "strategic hamlets."

By raising their operational standard, and creatively making use of the "three-prong assault" tactics, the regional army and guerillas, together with PLAF have generated an aggregate strength which has enabled them to overrun or force to withdraw many posts and step by step expand the liberated areas.

A general survey of the whole battlefields in South Viet Nam in the past 4 months shows that even in the unfavourable rainy season, guerilla warfare has been powerfully growing in all parts including the vital areas bordering on important cities and key "pacification" regions. *AP* remarked on September 22 that taken South Viet Nam as a whole, the "pacification" program was apparently paralized, and such a state of things has been dragging on for months now.

Guerilla warfare has created favourable conditions for the Liberation regular forces not only to strike hard right inside the enemy sanctuaries in Cam Ranh, Quy Nhon and around Saigon, but also help and strongly stimulate the political protest against US-Thieu of the urban people from all walks of life.

Facts on the battlefields in the past few months have proved guerilla warfare's important role and great contribution to frustrating Nixon's "Vietnamization" strategy.

NGUYEN PHUONG

HOW HATRED PRODUCES WEAPONS

THANH just received a letter from his sister announcing that An, his elder sister who had looked after him in his childhood, had been killed by American bombs together with her 5-year-old son in an enemy "pacification" operation.

This piece of news quickly spread in his army workshop and soon he was flooded with condolences and marks of sympathy from his mates.

Sometime earlier, his father-in-law had been cut down by a chopper in an enemy's "sweep." Such unhappy occurrences frequently happened to his friends who all hailed from Ben Tre, a fertile and beautiful province which had been mopped up to the point of becoming bare and sterile. The coconut trees in his village were charred or bullet-riddled. One after another, his kith and kin fell to the enemy guns. Mourning breeds hatred. What to do about this to protect the lives and property of his co-villagers?

The needs in weapons to be used against "pacification" stimulated Thanh and his mates at the army workshop to turn out bigger and bigger quantities of them to arm the inhabitants and supply the frontline. But in this period of shortage of materials how could they manage to maintain the same level of output? The question was preying on their minds. For over ten years working in the workshop, they had unceasingly overcome all difficulties to develop innovations and produce a wide range of weapons for emergency use at the front.

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PRIOR to the popular concerted uprisings, the enemy had fiercely cracked down on the revolutionary movement. In face of a harsh dictatorial regime rigged up by the US imperialists the patriotic people harboured a deep hatred but had not even a piece of hardware in hand; how could they find enough weapons to defend themselves? Thanh's father, who had taken part in the August 1945 Revolution, died as a hero in the early days of resistance in Nam Bo. Continuing this tradition, Thanh and his fellow-villagers did their best to make booby-traps, spike pits, hand grenades, mines, etc.

All these rudimentary weapons were extensively used by the local armed forces to repel all terrorist raids. Since early 1965, the enemy had begun to dig in in their refuges. Heavy guns were thus needed to destroy posts and blockhouses. Thanh and other fighters in Ben Tre province went in search of scrap iron and duds to make "LB" 120mm guns having many features of the recoilless gun; these short-barrelled ordnance pieces were easy to handle and could be brought as near as the barbed wire entanglements to blow up enemy posts, blockhouses and training centres.

In 1967, the enemy ran floating bases on the waterways in Ben Tre province. In cooperation with his mates, Thanh manufactured "floating mines" from materials collected in the province and from enemy unexploded bombs. With their highly destructive power these weapons had contributed to the success of the attacks against the enemy vessels sailing up and down the Mam Luong river and other waterways in the province.

But the enemy criminal "pacification" operations gave rise to new problems. Thanh had to design new weapons. He left the army workshop for the enemy-held areas to observe the "sweeps" there. The danger caused by artillery and air bombings and the tension of long days lying in the trenches without food did not make him flinch.

After a thorough study, he developed a weapon badly needed by the guerillas.

As "pacification" operations required helicopter support Thanh invented a kind of trap called "cob-web mine" which covered flat grounds with a network of strings connected to charges of explosive. The landing helicopters caught their rotor blades in these strings which sprang the mines. In three months, Thanh's workshop was able to manufacture over 2,000 units of this engine, which were sent to various "pacification" areas. So on June 30, 1967, three out of eight "Chinooks" loaded with Saigon soldiers were blasted to pieces at Long My village. Since then the enemy no longer dared to land troops near villages and hamlets but on far away strips, which gave the guerillas ample time to prepare for counter attacks.

Thanh also thought up another kind of mine against "pacification" agents living in military posts. The mines were buried around the post. The enemy men who ventured out of their positions and stepped on the pins protruding from these mines could be quickly blasted to pieces. The simultaneous detonations of these mines made a terrible noise like a heavy bombing. In the localities where these contraptions were available, the enemy incursions were greatly reduced, and the struggle of the inhabitants made much easier.

The guerilla activities against "pacification" in Ben Tre province required an increasing number of hand grenades. Owing to the lack of iron, the production of the latter was carried out against great odds. Thanh made them out of sardine tins. He cut these into 6mm pieces which he rammed into containers together with gunpowder taken from duds (a bomb could give enough explosive for over 2000 hand grenades of this kind, and sardine tins could be found plentifully around enemy posts).

The efficiency of these mines and grenades had been improved by Thanh himself. He moved his mobile workshop about in Ben Tre to initiate the guerillas and inhabitants in the making of these rudimentary weapons, thereby accelerating the movement against "pacification" in the province. There was time when Thanh could hardly sleep a wink for days and nights, as in the day time he was busy guiding the local people to manufacture these weapons and at night defusing unexploded shells and bombs for explosive.

The movement of Thanh's workshop became very risky. He organized his men in combat unit against enemy raids and waged 28 grim engagements in self-defence, during which 168 enemy troops were put out of action chiefly with mines, and 5 choppers downed.

MOTIVATED by the same sense of purpose, Thanh and his mates later on increased the destructive power of their weapons and devised new ones. They have enriched the arsenal of "strategic arms" of Ben Tre province in particular and of South Viet Nam in general.

In the drive to turn out weapons in Ben Tre province, there have emerged now many model workers, but nobody can surpass Vo Van Thanh, inventor and producor of many devastating weapons against enemy "pacification" operations.

HONG MAI

o President Ton Duc Thang has sent a congratulatory message to the 2nd Congress of Vietnamese Residents in France, wishing it brilliant success. Greetings were conveyed by him to all Vietnamese nationals in France, especially to youngsters and children. They were praised for their patriotic tradition and constant concern for the Motherland. They were called on by the President to further close their ranks, strengthen their friendship with the French people, and make a more active contribution to the anti-US patriotic resistance.

• Premier Pham Van Dong recently visited the sea-fishing area of Cat Ba district. After hearing reports, he gave a friendly talk about the importance and urgency of the development of marine economy and about the need to coordinate various activities with a view to better tapping sea resources. He insisted that the Sea Resources department should, in the coming years, step up both exploitation and breeding, pay special attention to mechanizing its work for higher yield and greater efficiency.

the DRVN in brief

Studying together

o A grand rally was held on Nov. 16, 1971 by the Viet Nam Teachers' Trade Union to commemorate the International Day of Teachers' Charter, the 25th founding anniversary of the International Trade Union of Teachers and the 25th founding anniversary of Normal Schools in Viet Nam.

• 31 more work teams of various universities and vocational middle schools have been chosen as "Socialist Labour Teams" by the DRVN Government for the 1970-1971 academic year.

o The Electricity and Coal Ministry has recently presented the *Hongay Engineering Plant* with a rotating "emulation banner" bearing President Ho Chi Minh's name. It has also presented the *Uong Bi Electrical Works* with another "emulation banner" bearing President Ton Duc Thang's name. These two units were credited with outstanding achievements in the third quarter of 1971. Both have pledged to overfulfil their yearly plans by 25-33 per cent and to lower their production costs by 10 per cent compared with indices of the plans.

o Workers of the various workshops of the 1st Pharmaceutical Plant under the Health Ministry have volunteered to put in extra hours to produce 10 additional tons of medicines as relief to the cyclone victims in Central Trung Bo.

o The DRVN was among the 51 countries whose ping-pong teams took part in the friendship competition recently held in Peking. The DRVN male team ranked fourth and its female team seventh. Ping-pong player Nguyen The Kim came out second, Nguyen Dinh Thien and Nguyen Ngoc Luong third.

o The CC of the Viet Nam Women's Union has launched a movement to learn from the "heroism, undauntedness, loyalty and ability" of Le Thi Hong Gam, a girl guerilla posthumously cited army "heroine." The movement is aimed at impelling the "three take-over's" drive among the women to help them fulfil their anti-US resistance and socialist construction tasks and their duties as members of the great rear-base towards the great frontline.

The Third World in Effervescence

o On Nov. 10, in 328 localities throughout *Japan* demonstrations were staged by hundreds of thousands of students and workers to demand that the US totally return Okinawa to Japan and no longer maintain military bases there. In Tokyo 70,000 people took to the streets. In Okinawa, a strike of an unprecedented scale broke out and lasted 48 hours, paralysing all activities on the island.

o The *Philippine* People's Liberation Army recently laid two ambushes against the enemy, wiping out 24 of them. On Nov. 8, a helicopter of the Filipino Air Force was downed, resulting in the death of six, including a colonel who was deputy-commander of the assailing forces of the Filipino reactionary army now engaged in combat against the liberation forces.

o In an ambush by the *Thai* People's Liberation Army on October 8 at Tak, a seven-man police team was completely wiped out.

o In three months — July, August and September 1971 — the *Mozambique* patriotic armed forces at Niassa put out of action 30 Portuguese colonialists, levelled off 3 enemy posts, destroyed 8 military vehicles and 4 bridges.

o From Oct. 5 to 22, the *Dofar* People's Liberation Army launched 14 offensives, knocking out 130 enemy troops including 2 British officers, destroying many military posts and capturing a large amount of arms and ammunition.

o On Nov. 3, the US National City Bank in Chile was occupied by employees and workers of the bank. They struck against the dilatory tactics used in negotiations by the bank owners to delay its nationalization.

o Between Nov. 10 and 13, the authorities in *Ecuador* retained 13 foreign fishing boats which intruded into the country's territorial waters to fish herrings. Since the beginning of this year, Ecuador has held up 32 US fishing boats, in defiance of threat and pressure from the US government.

o *Panama* President Lakos declared on Oct. 12 at a press conference in Mexico where he was on a visit, that Panama would not relax her effort to recover her national rights over US-occupied Panama Canal. It is a shame on the whole American continent that an American state is still a colony, he said.

At the same press conference Escobar, the Dean of Panama University, strongly flayed the United States and pointed out that the canal zone was in fact a "colonial nest" in the heart of Panama.

o On Sept. 28, guerillas in *Columbia* laid an ambush in Tolima province against a patrolling unit of the pro-US reactionary government, killing 12 enemy troops, wounding 2 others.

o Parallel to the activities of patriotic armed forces, *Columbian* students have, since the beginning of this year, staged many drives against US cultural penetration, the most ebullient of these drives being the ones in February and April 1971. On Sept. 20, the students of Bogota State University drove away their director and occupied many class rooms in protest against the director's acceptance of US funds and tolerance of US interference in the University's curricula.

o On Nov. 10, the *Peruvian* government nationalized 16 radio and television companies involving dozens of radio and television stations belonging to the US and its reactionary henchmen.

No respite until US aggression ...

(Continued from page 1)

coup to strengthen the hands of US clients by ousting those who did not see eye to eye with the ruling clique. From now on, the Americans will have a completely free hand in using Thailand as a springboard for their aggression against the Indochinese.

All the above activities were part of US global plan to drag out and broaden the Indochina war under the Nixon doctrine. On November 12, Mr Nixon also made clear that there would be a US residual force in South Viet Nam during the process of reinvigorating the Saigon soldiery into a strategic force on the South Viet Nam battlefield and storm-troopers in the Indochina theatre of operations. The large-scale operation launched by the US-Thieu to the rescue of Lon Nol and the deployment of Saigon soldiers in Operations Lam Son 719 and Total Victory before it, have dispelled any doubt about the US President's intention, most recently betrayed anew by the sabre-rattling of his Secretary for Defense.

What has been actually happening is just the opposite of an endeavour to terminate US involvement in Indochina and Southeast Asia, as claimed by the White House boss. It is a strenuous exertion to implement his doctrine, that is to achieve US neo-colonialism under new forms in Viet Nam and Indochina. It has become transparent through the move that aggressiveness and bellicosity is in the very nature of US imperialism.

There is consequently no more likelihood of any alteration in it than of the leopard changing his spots. The enemy number one of the Indochinese peoples will always be their mortal foe.

HOWEVER frantic may be the efforts to translate the Nixon doctrine into reality, its fate seems to be sealed. US setbacks in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, the news-making successes of the South Vietnamese patriots on Highway 9 — Khe Sanh, the High Plateaux, U Minh, Central Viet Nam delta, Tay Ninh, etc., those of the Cambodian Liberation Army in Eastern Cambodia, Snoul and Krek and Phnom Penh surroundings and those of the Lao people and armed forces in Ban Dong, the Plain of Jars have been portents ominous enough in this respect.

"Vietnamization" is being put to a tough test. South Viet Nam guerilla is weaving an inextricable net around the aggressors and their native mercenaries. In "key pacification" areas, resistance to sweeps and concentrations of population has evinced great ingenuity and stubbornness. The liberated zone not only has been preserved but even expanded, and revolutionary writ is running in ever more extensive areas. In urban centres, anti-Thieu agitation has been gaining in turbulence and variety and involving large segments of the people belonging to a wide spectrum of religious and political tendencies. Of all the watchwords including slogans of an economic, democratic, national and peace-seeking character, those urging a prompt and total US withdrawal and removal of the Thieu dictatorship have been most widely upheld. At home and abroad, growing support has been enlisted by the seven points of the RSVN PRG. The three Indochinese peoples', militant solidarity has displayed its irresistible strength, and their friendship has been cemented by wholehearted mutual support and assistance.

THEIR singleness of purpose has been amply evidenced by their determined and successful efforts against US aggression. The gains scored will stimulate them vigorously to keep up their resistance for national salvation. They will fire the South Vietnamese people and fighters to carry on the struggle until their land is liberated, the North is made secure and national unity is achieved. President Ho Chi Minh's words "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" will continue to inspire them in their fight which will know no respite which until there is not a single aggressor left on our soil, as the father of our nation has recommended.

In response to the call of our rivers and mountains, to live to the expectations of the Fatherland, to deserve the heartfelt sympathy and support of our friends in the five continents, for the sake of national independence and unity, of the common cause of the Indochinese peoples and of peace and security of the world, let's stiffen our resolve and fight to the bitter end.

SOUTH VIET NAM

For Our Beloved Fatherland

ON November 10, 1971, Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, sent a congratulatory message to the 2nd Congress of the Association of Vietnamese in France.

After commending the effective contribution of the Vietnamese residents in France to the resistance against US aggression, the message scored the Nixon administration's obdurate shirking of the PRG 7-point peace proposal, prolongation of the war for an indefinite period, refusal to set a deadline for troop withdrawal and continuation of the Nguyen Van Thieu bellicose clique in office.

We are sure that at the current congress, the message stressed, the Association will rally the Vietnamese residents in France around it and together with the Vietnamese living in other countries, they will continue to turn their thoughts to the cherished South and to the Fatherland and to work to the best of their ability for the resistance against US aggression till total victory.

THE 2nd Congress of the Association of Vietnamese Residents in France was held on November 13 and 14, 1971 at Malakoff, in the suburbs of Paris.

It was attended by over 500 delegates from 21 subcommittees representing over 3,000 members throughout France, and by delegates of the Vietnamese Residents' Associations in Belgium and West Germany. Mr Pham Van Ba, director of the Information Office of the PRG of the RSVN in France, Messrs Nguyen Van Tien and Dinh Ba Thi, deputy heads of the PRG delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam were also present.

The inauguration of the meeting was marked by a minute of silent tribute to the memory of President Ho Chi Minh, the venerated leader of the whole nation, and of soldiers and civilians who had sacrificed their lives for the liberation of our country.

Mr Huynh Trung Dong, President of the Association, submitted a report reviewing the activities of the Association in the past two years and, on the basis of the present situation, laid down its tasks for the period to come.

In the light of the reports and specches delivered, the Congress was gratified to see that in the past two years, the Vietnamese residents in France had shown constant concern for the beloved Fatherland, joined the Association in ever greater numbers. The credit and influence of the latter has been growing with every passing day.

The Vietnamese residents in France have been stepping up their activities for national liberation and construction. They have contributed one million (new) francs to the national salvation fund in the past three years.

The gathering applauded the all-round magnificent achievements of the heroic South Vietnamese who had dealt staggering blows at the enemy and thwarted all their war strategies. It wholeheartedly hailed and supported the actions of our South Vietnamese townsfolk and warmly welcomed the substantial successes of Cambodia and Laos in the effort shared with our people against the common enemy.

The assembly was pleased to hail the Northern fellowcountrymen who, through thick and thin, had made great gains in economic and cultural rehabilitation and development, in the strengthening of national defence and in socialist construction, thus making the North the solid rear base of the great frontline.

The Congress strongly denounced the US vicious "Vietnamization" plan which consists in having Vietnamese killed by Vietnamese in order to prolong and expand the war in South Viet Nam and Indochina.

It has set for the Association of the Vietnamese residents in France the task of bringing together Vietnamese from, all classes, sexes and individuals on the basis of broad solidarity and national concord.

It gave a standing ovation to the congratulatory messages from Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Ton Duc Thang.

Responding to the call of the Presidium of the Congress, the delegates subscribed nearly ten thousand francs and another sum in West German marks as relief for the flood victims in Central South Viet Nam.

In a most enthusiastic mood, the Congress passed a resolution and sanctioned four letters to be sent to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, President Ton Duc Thang, the South Viet Nam towns folk and the American people.

The Congress appointed a new 42-member committee headed by My Huynh Trung Dong (re-elected).

o On November 1, 1971 the Patriotic Vietnamese Residents' Association in Great Britain issued a statement baring the election and "Thieu's inauguration" farces. The statement reads in part as follows:

"As the Nixon administration is so stubborn as to continue to back the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu, prolong the aggressive war in Viet Nam, refuse to accept the 7-point sensible peace proposal of the PRG of the RSVN, we must strive to strengthen our solidarity with our fellow-countrymen at home to push up our resistance to US aggression till complete victory."

o On October 28, the Central Committee of the Association of Patriotic Vietnamese Residents in Cambodia sent a letter the to PRG asking it to convey to the typhoon and flood victims in Central South Viet Nam the assurances of its deepest sympathy. After expressing indignation at thebase scheme and deeds of the US and its quislings who capitalized on this calamity to engage in "pacification" operations, plunder our fellow-countrymen and prevent them from helping one another, the letter wrote: "We firmly believe that with their tradition of solidarity, self-reliance and mutual assistance, under the sound leadership of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL and PRG, our countrymen in Central South Viet Nam, vill thwart all the manoeuvres of the enemy and quickly overcome the aftermaths of this natural calamity to promptly restore production and life to normal.

As a contribution to alleviating the suffering and difficulties of the victims, our Association sends them through you 100,000 riels (Cambodian currency) with the deep sympathy of Vietnamese living abroad."

CAMBODIA

HURRAH FOR RUM LUONG VICTORY!

THE South Vietnamese people and their liberation armed forces greatly rejoiced over the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces' recent destruction of Brigade 46 of the Phnom Penh army and liberation of Rum Luong borough.

It was a major annihilation battle and the most outstanding exploit of the Cambodian army and people since last May's dramatic Snuol battle.

Lying between Phnom Penh and Kompong Thom city, Rum Luong is an important adverse base on the defence line along Highway number 6.

In late August the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique launched Operation "Chenla II" to clear Highway 6 and rescue the besieged Kompong Thom city. The raiding force, involving 15 infantry brigades and several armoured, artillery and military engineering units and almost of all their air force with strong US air support, was deployed on a 60-km long battlefield with Rum Luong in its centre.

But from the night of October 26, the CNLAF mounted violent counter-offensives. On October 31, all the adverse positions in the outer perimeter of Rum Luong were levelled. The base remained under siege despite strong US-Saigon air cover and supplies and increasing reinforcements. On the nights of November 12 and 13, the whole system of enemy points d'appui crumbled after a few hours' fighting, and the district was completely liberated.

The Rum Luong victory has had an important significance. It has contributed to frustrating the biggest adverse military effort in the rainy season and the largest ever operation conducted by the Lon Nol troops. It has blotted out a position of prime importance among the enemy defence system on Highway 6. It has also struck a deadly blow at the Lon Nol soldiers' morale and at the formula "Lon Nol infantry plus US-Saigon air force and Saigon mercenaries." It spelled out the total and unavoidable failure of Operation "Chenla II."

AFP reported that the CNLAF on the night of November 12 "won a signal success by breaking through the Highway 6 defence line at Rum Luong". *AP* acknowledged this was one of the most serious reverses of Lon Nol troops in the past 12 months.

Moreover, the Cambodian patriotic forces also made remarkable advances on other battlefields, namely on Highways 2, 4 and 7 and even inside Phnom Penh (repeated assaults on Pochentong airport). According to *AKI*, after 3 days' attack the CNLAF liberated on November 16 Toul Leap borough, 16 km vest of Phnom Penh, putting out of action 2 battalions and heavily decimating another. More than 500 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded, 219 others taken prisoner, and hundreds of firearms destroyed or seized. The defence line west of Phnom Penh was thereby breached, and furious fighting is still raging there.

Cambodian liberation fighters scoring another feat of arms

The Rum Luong victory and other recent CNLAF exploits have driven the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak administration into an ever more critical situation. As a result, the Phnom Penh quislings recently have had to devaluate the "riel" (Cambodian currency), which has aggravated the differences between them and their Saigon confederates.

The remarkable accomplishments of the brotherly Cambodian people and NLAF will toughen the South Vietnamese people and armed forces' resolve to co ordinate action with their Cambodian and Lao counterparts until the complete defeat of the US aggressors.

BINH LONG

TO THE MOSLEM REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

ON November 28 the Mauritanian people will commemorate their 11th National Day. Looking back on the path traversed, they are rightly proud of their fight for independence, of the defence and building of their country. After over a century of a sustained effort, now simmering, now effervescent, now with arms in hands, now with political means, they succeeded in forcing the French colonialists to recognize their right to be masters of their fatherland. And finally, on Nov. 28, 1968, the Moslem Republic of Mauritania proclaimed its independence.

Since then, under the leadership of the People's Party and the Government headed by President Maktar Ould Daddah, the Mauritanian people have done their best to safeguard and consolidate national independence, while overcoming numerous difficulties in persevering labour to achieve substantial gains in economy, educational and medical work. At present they are striving to fulfil their 2nd four-year plan (1970-1973) which attaches importance to food-crop plants, animal husbandry and fishery with a view to raising the people's living standard.

After independence, the people and government of Mauritania, together with those of other African countries, have been waging a stubborn struggle against colonialism and imperialism, for the liberation of the whole of Africa, and at the same time actively supporting the righteous fight of the Palestinian people for their legitimate national rights. The Mauritanian Government severed diplomatic relations with the United States in protest against its support to Israel's 1967 aggression against Arab countries. It has developed friendly ties with all countries and carried out a non-aligned foreign policy.

Having experienced the oppression and exploitation of the French colonialists, and now engaged in a battle against US-led colonialism and imperialism, the Mauritanian people deeply sympathize with and are lending active support to the South Vietnamese people's resistance against American aggression. The Mauritanian Government gives full backing to the political solution put forward by the NFL and the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam. When receiving the credentials presented by RSVN Ambassador Pham Van Quang last July 23, President Moktar Ould Daddah once again praised the valiant fight of the South Vietnamese people and welcome the PRG seven-point peace initiative as an active, sensible and reasonable plan to solve the Vietnamese issue, and reaffirmed the militant solidarity of his people with the South Vietnamese people.

On this great day of the fraternal Mauritanian people, the people, the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN extend to them, the People's Party and the Government of the Moslem Republic of Mauritania most heartfelt thanks for their valuable backing.

They wish the people and Government of Mauritania bigger successes in safeguarding their independence and building their country.

May the militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Mauritanian peoples flourish with every passing day!

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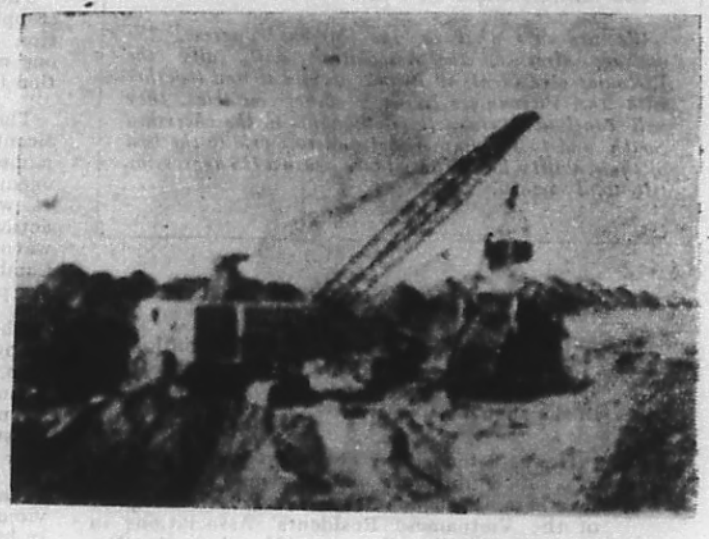

Exploitation of iron ore in Mauritania

[redacted]

• On November 15, in his maiden speech delivered at the UNO General Assembly Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiao Kouan-houa, head of the Chinese delegation, strongly condemned the US government's policy of aggression in Southeast Asia and the world. He said: "The US government must withdraw immediately and unconditionally all armed forces of the US and satellite countries from the three Indochinese countries and leave the Indochinese free to settle their own affairs in independence without foreign intervention."

• A Czechoslovak-German Democratic Republic joint communiqué issued on Nov. 12 on the occasion of the visit to Czechoslovakia of the German Democratic Republic government delegation affirmed that both parties were "resolved to continue giving the Indochinese peoples all-sided support" and "backing the well-known seven-point proposal of the RSVN PRG."

• On November 15, at a press conference at Tarapaca (Chile) the visiting Premier of Cuba Fidel Castro declared: "I think the United States is being defeated in Viet Nam. That it has had to withdraw its forces in the midst of the fighting can only be explained by its sense of failure. Nixon's policy is not an honest one, because the right thing to do should be a total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam."

• The 32nd Congress of the British Communist Party held on Nov 14 in London passed a special resolution urging that the US put an immediate end to its war of aggression against Indochina and that the British Government cease its support to the US government's war of aggression.

• On Nov. 5, the Azanian National Congress (ANC) meeting in Tanzania made public a statement strongly critical of the "Nixon doctrine" being implemented in Indochina to prolong and expand US war of aggression there.

• On Oct. 22, in a TV speech in Stockholm, Swedish Foreign Minister Kriter Wickman declared: "No doubt Thieu is a dictator who can survive only thanks to foreign support. Sweden grants a powerful moral and political support to the South Viet Nam national liberation movement."

• Taking the floor at the inaugural session of the 3rd Congress of the Norwegian Communist Youth Union which met under the "Youth versus US Imperialism" slogan, George Ovesen, President of the Norwegian Communist Youth Union, pointed out: "Our duty is to support the Vietnamese people. That is the spirit pervading this Congress."

• On Nov 14, in Moscow 1,000 young Soviet pioneers met and formally handed gifts from Soviet pioneers to their South Vietnamese counterparts.

• A "Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam" was observed from Nov. 8 to 14 by the Finns in Helsinki, Tempere, Rauma, Kotka, etc. 52 organizations sponsoring the week collected funds, staged rallies and torch light parades in support of Viet Nam and passed resolutions condemning the US policy of aggression against Indochina, and urging the US government to "withdraw all its troops to let the Indochinese peoples enjoy freedom and sovereignty."

• In the first days of November 1971, the people and students of many British cities, including London and Manchester, and Universities, including Oxford and Brighton, held demonstrations, distributed leaflets, organized film shows and exhibitions to denounce US crimes in Indochina and raise money for Viet Nam. Petitions were approved in rallies and signatures collected to demand that Nixon "fix a time-limit for the withdrawal of all US troops from South Viet Nam and Indochina."

• Many famous personalities including scientists and peace fighters all over the world joined in West Germans' protests against the US war in Viet Nam on Nov. 15 in a series of West German cities including Hamburg, Bonn, Kiel, Heidelberg, Munchen, Frankfurt, Madgburg, etc.

• In the United States, from Nov. 9 to 11, people from New York and New Jersey converged on Washington and demonstrated in front of the White House against Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy on Nov. 12. In California, thousands of Americans took to the streets and staged demonstrations in front of Alameda air and naval base pressing for cancellation by the US authorities of the order to send the aircraft carrier *Coral Sea* back to Viet Nam.

Nixon's Nov 12 press statement on Viet Nam has been under fire from US political circles. *UPI* reported on Nov. 13 that anti-war Senators were angered and the Nixon statement only gave them a stimulus to draft a new motion for an end to US role in South Viet Nam. On Nov. 16 US congress E.P. Boland presented to the US Congress an amendment to the draft bill cutting all credits for US military activities in Southeast Asia with effect from June 1, 1972. On the same day 18 representatives made public at a press conference in Washington a joint statement pointing out that despite all Nixon's promises to end the war in Indochina no way out could be seen up to now. The majority of the American people want all US troops to be brought home, they said, adding that Congress should take firmer measures to rapidly end the war.

Senator Thomas Hughes, speaking of Nixon's Nov. 12 press conference, said that he saw no sign of a forthcoming ending of the war.

Senator Mansfield expressed deep disappointment and voiced concern for the part of Nixon's statement relating to a US residual force in South Viet Nam. Senator J. Javits pointed out that Nixon was leading the United States into a re-involvement in South Viet Nam, while Senator Abraham Ribicoff stressed that all US troops should be withdrawn within 6 months.

[redacted]